

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 219300 TOSEC 260009

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT LAGOS 10234 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 03 SEP 76

QUOTE S E C R E T LAGOS 10234

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: MESSAGE TO GARBA

REF : STATE 218656

1. AT GARBA'S REQUEST, I TOOK SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO HIM THIS MORNING AT DODAN BARRACKS WHERE I FOUND HIM ON POINT OF JOINING PRESIDENT TOLBERT FOR HELICOPTER SHUTTLE TO AIRPORT. GARBA REACTED WARMLY TO POSSIBILITY OF VISIT. NOTING SECRETARY'S REFERENCE TO "LATTER PART OF SEPTEMBER," GARBA SAID HE HAD BEEN PLANNING LEAVE LAGOS FOR UNGA SEPTEMBER 25. THIS WAS THE ONLY POSSIBLE COMPLICATION HE FORESAW IN WORKING OUT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE. GARBA SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO'S CONCURRENCE BEFORE

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HE COULD GIVE US AN OFFICIAL GREENLIGHT, BUT HE HOPED TO

BE ABLE TO PROVIDE US WITH FMG'S AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE

"VERY SOON."

2. COMMENT: GIVEN ONGOING INSECURITIES AND RIVALRIES WITHIN THE NIGERIAN SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL, I DOUBT OBASANJO WILL FEEL HIMSELF FREE TO MAKE THIS DECISION ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT BOTH GARBA AND OBASANJO ARE IN FAVOR OF THE VISIT AND THAT THE SMC WILL GIVE ITS APPROVAL, BUT THEY WILL HAVE TO GO THROUGH CERTAIN MOTIONS FIRST. THIS, COUPLED WITH GARBA'S DEPARTURE THIS MORNING FOR FOUR-DAY VISIT TO SENEGAL, MEANS WE MAY HAVE TO WAIT SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE WE GET A FIRM FMG REPLY.
EASUM

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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